

On page 19, line 21, change "one or a" to --at least one slave--.

On page 19, line 22, delete "plurality of slaves".

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the original abstract with the attached substitute abstract.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On page 21, delete line 1, and insert:
--What Is Claimed Is:--.

Please cancel, without prejudice, original claims 1-15 of the underlying PCT application. Please also cancel, without prejudice, substitute claims 1-7.

Please add the following new claims:

8. (New) A method for coordinating network components including at least one first logical component and at least one second logical component, each of the at least one first logical component and the at least one second logical component corresponding to a specific application and communicating with each other via a network on a communication plane, the communication plane being substantially independent from an application plane, the at least one first logical component and the at least one second logical component standing in a master slave relationship to each other, the method comprising the steps of:

in response to a specific event concerning at least one of the at least one first logical component and the at least one second logical component, establishing a communications connection between the at least one first

logical component and the at least one second logical component at an initiative of one of the at least one first logical component and the at least one second logical component;

transmitting an information message from the at least one second logical component to the at least one first logical component via the communications connection, the information message including at least information regarding a current application status of the at least one second logical component, the information of the transmitted information message being stored in a first nonvolatile memory of the at least one second logical component, a content of the first nonvolatile memory being actualized every time a change occurs in the application status of the at least one second logical component;

comparing the information of the transmitted information message in the at least one first logical component with information stored in a second nonvolatile memory of the at least one first logical component, the information stored in the second nonvolatile memory concerning at least one of the at least one first logical component and the at least one second logical component; and

coordinating the at least one second logical component on the application plane by the at least one first logical component as a function of a result of the comparison.

17. (New) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

storing the information of the transmitted information message in the second nonvolatile memory of the at least one first logical component.

10. (New) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

after a rest of an already started application, transmitting the information message to at least one of the at least one first logical component and the at least one second logical component.

11. (New) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

before the step of establishing, causing the at least one first logical component to reconstruct a state using the information of the transmitted information message.

12. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein:

the step of coordinating includes one of the step of resetting on the application plane and the step of configuring on the application plane.

13. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein:

the method is performed in an automotive on-board information system.

14. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein:

the method is performed for at least one of network-wide failure location and failure diagnosis of the at least one first logical component and the at least one second logical component.

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, original claims 1-15 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE98/03517. This Preliminary Amendment also cancels, without prejudice, substitute claims 1-7, and